AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

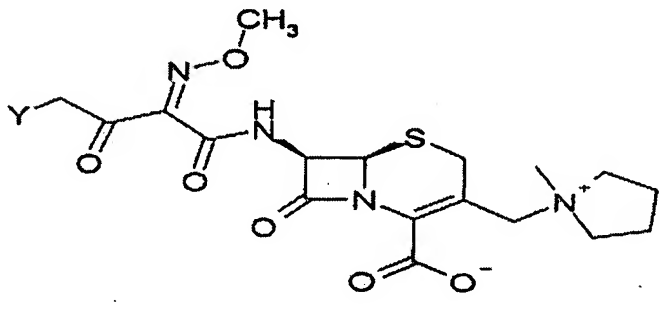
Claim 1. (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim [[19]] 20, wherein the compound of formula IIA [[or IIB]] is a compound of formula IIA wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim [[19]] 20, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-iodide monohydrate is used.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim [[19]] 20, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-chloride or pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxylato-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-dihydrochloride is used, optionally in solvated form.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). A compound of formula V



V

wherein Y and X are Cl and wherein m=1.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

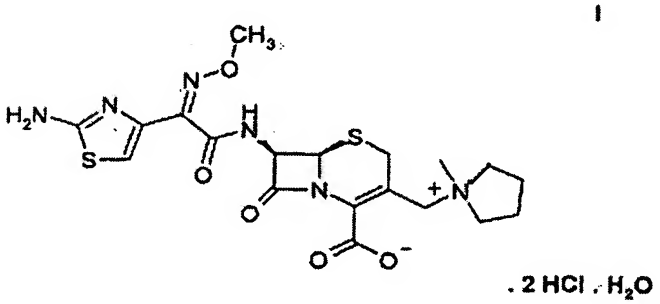
Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A compound as claimed in claim [[6]] 5 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 1 ~~or Figure 2~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). A process according to claim [[19]] 20, wherein 4-chloro-2-methoxyimino-3-oxo-butyryl chloride is used as the reactive derivative of formula III.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim [[19]] 20, wherein the step of isolating the compound of formula I comprises the step of removing any bromide or iodide ions that may be present by ion exchange and the step of precipitating or crystallizing the compound of formula I after addition of hydrochloric acid from an aqueous acetonic solution.

Claims 10 – 19 (Cancelled).

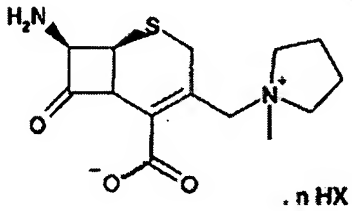
Claim 20 (New). A process for producing a compound of formula I



I

. 2 HCl . H_2O

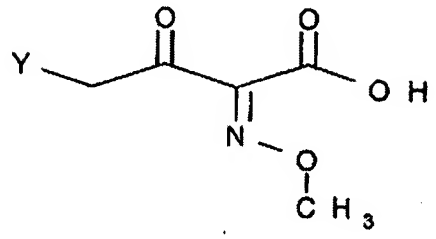
wherein a compound of formula IIA, or a hydrate of a compound of formula IIA,



II A

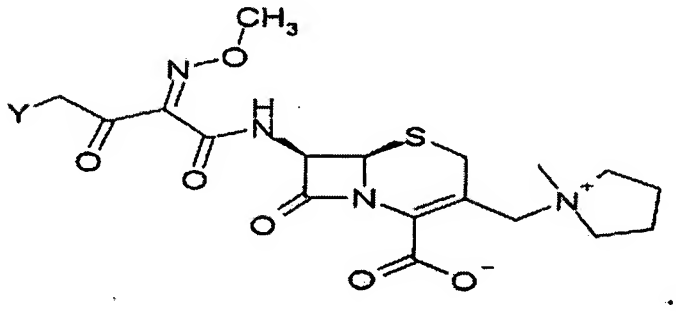
. n HX

wherein n is 1 or 2 and X signifies chloride, bromide or iodide,
is reacted with a reactive derivative of formula III



III

wherein Y signifies halogen, to form a compound of formula V



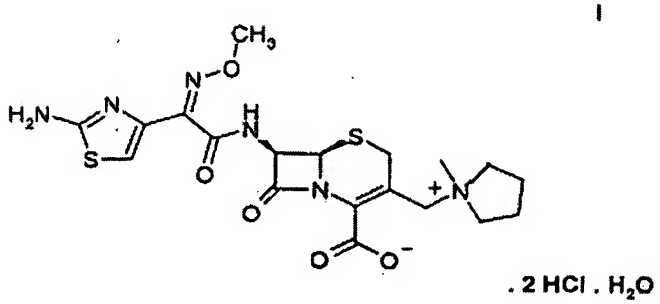
V

wherein optionally the compound of formula V, wherein m is 1, is isolated,

wherein the compound of formula V is cyclised with thiourea in an aqueous or organic-aqueous medium and optionally salt that is present is removed and hydrochloric acid is added from an aqueous acetonic solution, and

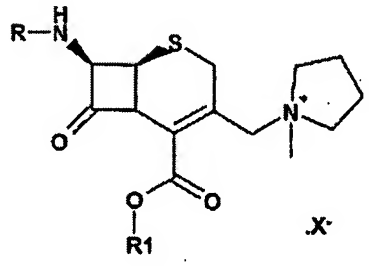
wherein the compound of formula I is subsequently isolated.

Claim 21 (New). A process for producing a compound of formula I



I

wherein a compound of formula IIB



II B

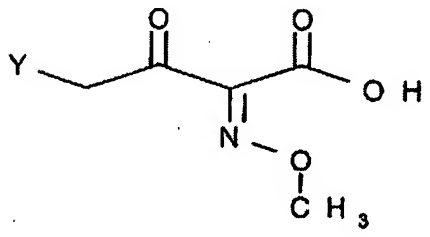
wherein

R_1 is a trialkylsilyl group,

R is hydrogen or a trialkylsilyl group, and

X signifies chloride, bromide or iodide

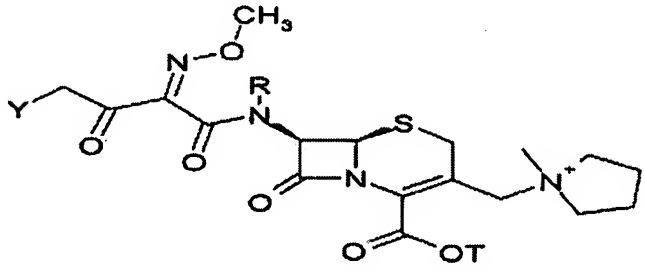
is reacted with a reactive derivative of formula III



III

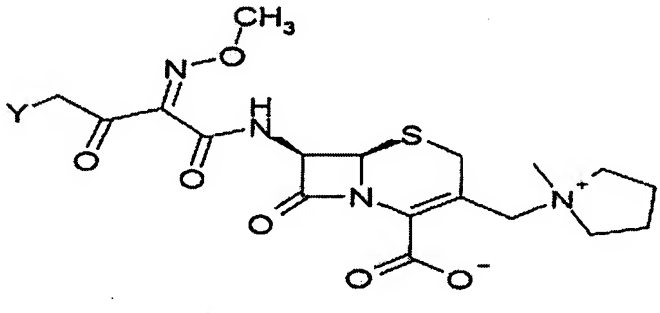
wherein Y signifies halogen, to form a compound of formula IV

IV



wherein T is trialkylsilyl, the silyl protecting group is removed, and wherein optionally the compound of formula V, wherein m is 1, and

V



wherein the compound of formula V is cyclised with thiourea in an aqueous or organic-aqueous medium and optionally salt that is present is removed and hydrochloric acid is added from an aqueous acetonic solution, and

wherein the compound of formula I is subsequently isolated.